

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 5, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, April 5, 1996

**Statement on Signing the Contract  
With America Advancement Act of  
1996**

*March 29, 1996*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3136, a bill providing for an increase in the public debt limit, an increase of the Social Security earnings limit, and increased flexibility for small businesses to comply with regulations.

I applaud yesterday's bipartisan congressional vote to maintain the Nation's creditworthiness and financial integrity. With the signing of this bill, millions of Americans will, once again, be secure that this great Nation will stand behind its obligations to pay not only beneficiaries of Federal programs but bondholders as well.

Over 8 months ago, Secretary of the Treasury Rubin wrote to the leaders of the Congress, urging them to pass an increase in the debt limit sufficient to extend through the current political season. Secretary Rubin pointed out that attempting to use the prospect of a Federal Government default to achieve leverage in a budget debate was not in the best interests of the American people. Now that we no longer need to focus our efforts on avoiding a default, we can turn our full attention to continuing to bring down the budget deficit as we have successfully done for the last 3 years.

When I took office, the deficit was \$290 billion—and rising. By the end of fiscal 1995, the deficit was \$164 billion. As a share of the economy, we have cut the deficit by more than half. And just yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office announced its estimate that the deficit for the current fiscal year will fall to \$140 billion—thus cutting the deficit that I inherited in half and fulfilling my commitment to do so in my first term.

We should now continue this progress—and limit future increases in the public debt—by reaching an agreement to balance

the budget by 2002. Over the last several months, I have worked closely with congressional leaders to reach agreement on balancing the budget. In fact, we have about \$700 billion in common savings, enough to balance the budget and provide a modest, targeted tax cut. Let me reiterate: I am committed to reaching an agreement with the Congress to balance the budget—and to reaching that agreement this year.

I also am pleased that this legislation increases the Social Security earnings limit. Currently, retired workers ages 65 through 69 who earn wages above a certain amount have their Social Security benefits reduced by \$1 for every \$3 in earnings. Over 900,000 Social Security beneficiaries lose some or all of their benefits. This reduction in benefits discourages work by senior citizens who are able and willing to do so. Raising the earnings test will increase the standard of living of the elderly and help the Nation's economy.

This legislation also responds to the legitimate concerns of small businesses regarding regulatory burdens. The bill includes several recommendations of the White House Conference on Small Business that I have supported. In addition, it codifies a number of my reinvention initiatives that will help small businesses comply with Federal regulations and, just as important, enable them to become meaningful partners in the regulatory process.

Finally, this legislation increases congressional accountability for regulations, providing expedited procedures for the Congress to review those regulations. I have long supported this concept, and my Administration endorsed the Senate's efforts of last year in this regard. I am, however, concerned about changes that the House made to this bill, which will unduly complicate and extend this

congressional review process. We will work with the Congress to resolve these concerns.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 29, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3136, approved March 29, was assigned Public Law No. 104-121. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Statement on Signing the Twelfth Continuing Resolution**

*March 29, 1996*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 170, the Twelfth Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 1996.

House Joint Resolution 170 provides for a temporary extension of appropriations, through April 24, for activities funded in the five appropriations bills that have not been enacted into law. Thus, it prevents a third government shutdown.

Full-year funding is provided for the Federal payment to the District of Columbia and the Federal contribution to the District's retirement funds. Language is included to permit the seven unions of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue to represent FAA employees and to bargain collectively on their behalf.

I commend the Congress for providing \$198 million to cover the costs of civilian implementation of the Dayton Peace accords in Bosnia. Subject to certain conditions, these funds will be available to finance civilian programs identified for the rest of fiscal year 1996. The commanders of the United States military units that are part of the NATO-led Bosnia Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) have strongly urged that the Congress make these funds available expeditiously in order to support their military mission. This bill provides an appropriately prompt response to their request.

In addition, the provision of this \$198 million will enable the United States, as provided for in this bill, to mobilize broad international support for economic revitalization at an aid donor's conference on Bosnia, scheduled for mid-April. In sum, the bill

demonstrates bipartisan support for the kind of American leadership abroad that serves our country well.

Despite this accomplishment, we are now halfway through the fiscal year, and the Congress still has not completed the work it should have done six months ago. That is a disservice to the American people.

While this is taking place, school districts around the country are facing the possibility of teacher layoffs, environmental clean-ups are being delayed, and States, local governments, and government contractors must contend with continuing uncertainty as they seek to provide critical services to the public.

My Administration has been working with the Congress in an effort to resolve our differences on funding levels for education, the environment, and other key priorities, as well as on numerous special interest legislative riders. We have made some progress in our discussions, but many difficult issues remain to be resolved.

It is time for the Congress to do its job. I call on the Congress to meet its responsibilities by sending me legislation for the remaining fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills in an acceptable form.

I hope that this will prove to be the final continuing resolution for fiscal 1996, and I intend to continue working with the Congress to ensure that it is.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 29, 1996.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 170, approved March 29, was assigned Public Law No. 104-122. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President's Radio Address**

*March 30, 1996*

Good morning. Today I want to talk to you about what we can do to make sure that working Americans have the chance to make the most of their own lives, to raise their children in security, and to become winners in economic change.

I want to talk about something very simple we can do to help our hardest pressed work-

ing families: Raise the minimum wage. Our Nation is living through a time of great change, our greatest economic transformation since a hundred years ago when so many American moved from farm to factory. Now we're all moving into an age of information and technology and global trade.

Four years ago our economy was drifting, with high unemployment, a deficit twice as high as it is now, and few new jobs. I took office determined to change our course, to cut the deficit in half in 4 years, invest in education and training, expand exports through tough trade agreements like the ones that opened Japan to our autos and auto parts, and to shrink and reform the Government so that it works better and costs less. It's now the smallest it's been since 1965, but still strong enough to protect workplace safety, pure food, clean air and water, to help Americans get the education they need, to grow the economy, and to protect our seniors through Medicare.

In 1992, I told the American people that if we implemented our economic plan, two things would happen: we'd get 8 million jobs and the deficit would be cut in half. Well, last month we learned that our economy has already created 8.4 million jobs, nearly all of them in the private sector since 1993. And now, in 1995 and 1996, over half of the jobs coming in to the economy are in high-wage industries. And just yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office certified that by the end of this year the deficit will be less than half of what it was when I took office. Over 8 million jobs, the deficit cut in half: two important commitments kept to the American people.

We've also got the lowest rates of unemployment and inflation combined in 27 years, record numbers of new small businesses. Our auto and telecommunications industries now lead the world. We've got a 15-year high in home ownership. And finally, we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As I said in my State of the Union, one of the main challenges we face is to make sure that this new economy with all of its opportunity doesn't leave people behind who are willing to work for their opportunities.

We've got to make sure that every American has the education and training, the health care, the pensions to be secure in this time of change, and that if they change jobs, they can take their health care and their pensions with them.

And we have to get wages rising again in this country for working people. We've got to make sure that our lowest paid workers keep up. That's why in 1993 I cut taxes for working people on modest incomes through the earned-income tax credit, giving tax benefits to 15 million working Americans, a downpayment on a strong commitment that no one who works full time and has children in the home should live in poverty. And that is why we must make sure the minimum wage is a living wage.

Today the minimum wage is \$4.25 an hour. Over many years, both political parties have worked together to make sure it keeps up with the cost of living. In 1989, the current leaders of both the House and the Senate joined together with Democrats and Republicans to raise the minimum wage. It went fully into effect exactly 5 years ago this Monday.

But since then, the minimum wage has stayed unchanged while the cost of living goes up. This year if Congress doesn't raise the minimum wage, it will drop in value to a 40-year low. That's why I proposed last year that the Congress increase the minimum wage from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.15 an hour. For a parent working full time, this 90-cent-an-hour increase would help pay for groceries for 7 months, or 4 months of rent, or months of child care. Tens of millions of Americans would benefit, 70 percent of them adults. These are among our hardest working people. Six out of 10 of them are working women, many trying to raise children and hold their families together. Others are just getting started in the work force, trying to get a hold on the first rung in the ladder; all of them trying hard to do the right thing, to work. Raising the minimum wage would honor both work and family. We should not leave behind anyone who is willing to work hard as our country moves forward.

Now, a majority of the Senators support an increase in the minimum wage. But the Republican leadership of the Senate has re-

fused to allow the minimum wage even to come up for a vote. In fact, you need to know that a Member of Congress who refuses to allow the minimum wage to come up for a vote made more money during last year's one-month Government shutdown than a minimum wage worker makes in an entire year. Over the past 5 years, while the minimum wage has been stuck at \$4.25 an hour, a Senator's salary has gone up by a third. That is wrong.

I challenge the Republican leadership to stop blocking a vote and let the majority rule. Pass an increase in the minimum wage. And Congress should vow that the next time they want to raise their own pay, they ought to raise the minimum wage, too. We hear a lot of talk in Washington these days about old-fashioned family values. Well, it's hard to raise a family on \$4.25 an hour, but millions of Americans are out there struggling to do it.

Now, we can do the right thing and create jobs and grow our economy. This is really an age of remarkable possibility for our Nation. More of our people will have the chance to live out their dreams than ever before. But we need to make sure that every American can become a winner in this time of economic change. If we don't want to grow apart as a people, we have to do the things that will enable us to grow together. Think about it. Support raising the minimum wage.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

### **Executive Order 12997—Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization**

*April 1, 1996*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (59 Stat. 669, 22 U.S.C. 288), and having found that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization is a public international organization in which the United States participates within the meaning of the International Organizations Immunities Act,

I hereby designate the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization as a public international organization entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities conferred by the International Organizations Immunities Act. This designation is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions, or immunities that such organization may have acquired or may acquire by international agreements or by congressional action.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
April 1, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 3, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4.

### **Remarks Welcoming President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy**

*April 2, 1996*

President Scalfaro, Mariana Scalfaro, members of the Italian delegation, distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, I am delighted to welcome President Scalfaro to the United States. It is an honor to return the gracious hospitality the people of Italy showed to Hillary and me in Rome and Naples in 1994.

America and Italy are joined by friendship, family, and values. Our Founding Fathers drew inspiration from the thinkers of ancient Rome to build a new republic based on laws and rooted in liberty and justice.

Thomas Jefferson was moved by the ideas of his friend Filippo Mazzei to write the immortal phrase, "All men are created equal." Constantino Brumidi, an artist from Rome, labored for 25 years on the frescoes that adorn our Nation's Capital. Generations of Italian-Americans have contributed beyond measure to America's greatness, enriching our Nation's character with their spirit and the strength of their heritage.

America and Italy stood together for half a century to safeguard Europe's freedom and advance our common ideals. Now with the

end of the cold war, the United States looks to Italy as a valued partner more than ever, from keeping the peace in troubled regions to building an undivided Europe.

Earlier this year, I visited Aviano Air Base where the United States and Italy work together to contain the conflict in Bosnia and provide a lifeline to the Bosnian people. Now we are joined in a common support of the peace that is taking hold in Bosnia. I know I speak for all Americans when I thank the people of Italy, its leaders, its troops, and its citizens for the enormous effort they have made to bring peace to the people of Bosnia.

I also thank Italy for its support for our common efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and for its role in the recent conference at Sharm al-Sheikh in Egypt.

Italy and the United States stand together as well in the fight against the forces of hatred and violence, the organized criminals, the drug traffickers, the terrorists who have brought pain and destruction to Italians and Americans alike.

Mr. President, the bonds between our people stretch across the centuries. They extend from the hearts of our neighborhoods to the distant reaches of the heavens where America and Italy now are cooperating on the international space station. As I said in Rome, and I say again, we, Italians and Americans, are now and forever *alleati, amici, una famiglia*—allies, friends, a family.

Welcome to the White House. Welcome to America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

### **The President's News Conference With President Scalfaro**

*April 2, 1996*

**President Clinton.** Good afternoon. Let me say again, it's a great pleasure to have President Scalfaro at the White House. For 50 years, Italy has been one of America's closest allies, a pillar of the Atlantic Alliance throughout the cold war, a strong advocate for freedom and democracy in the years since.

Over these many years of partnership, our Nation has had no better friend in Italy than

President Scalfaro. The President began his public career with the founding of the post-war Italian state. He has served his country in a range of high positions, and he has always, always worked to strengthen the close cooperation between our nations. As President, he has stood firm for the values that we share, and America is grateful to President Scalfaro for his leadership and his wise counsel.

This is our third meeting. Today we focused in large measure on our shared interests and effort in building a free, stable, and undivided Europe. Nowhere is this common commitment more evident than in our work in the former Yugoslavia. I salute the Italian soldiers who are participating in the mission in Bosnia. America's soldiers are proud to serve with them in what is truly a joint endeavor.

They and the other members of IFOR are doing invaluable work. They're giving the people of Bosnia a chance for peace. They are carrying on Italy's tradition of shouldering responsibility in the region that began with Operation Deny Flight and Operation Provide Promise.

Italy is helping to build bridges to Central and Eastern Europe, bridges that can extend security and prosperity and democracy across the entire continent. As a member of NATO and the European Union, Italy is a force for cooperation and integration in Europe and around the world.

I had the opportunity today to thank President Scalfaro for Italy's work in overcoming the old divisions in Europe and for his nation's global efforts to promote peace and security, from its support for the peace process in the Middle East to its vital help in the effort to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to its commitment that we strongly share to win the struggle against terrorism.

President Scalfaro told me about Italy's ambitious goals for its E.U. Presidency. The new transatlantic agenda, which I was proud to sign at Madrid at the U.S.-E.U. summit last December, promises to make our citizens on both sides of the Atlantic more secure and more prosperous. I am pleased with the cooperation we have enjoyed with Italy

on problems such as international crime, narcotics, and refugees.

Finally, let me say we had a brief discussion of political change in Italy and throughout the world. Every nation in the West, including America, has been undergoing a period of adjustment in the wake of the end of the cold war. We in the United States are convinced that Italy's democracy is strong; its economy healthy; its people committed to playing a vital and constructive role on the world stage in the future as they have for so many decades. We are very pleased about that and, again, very glad to welcome you, Mr. President, to Washington.

**President Scalfaro.** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you for the invitation and for the welcome during the state visit. But above all, I would like to express my great satisfaction for the words that you have repeated during this meeting and that you have repeated to me when I finished my speech at the arrival ceremony.

I have written down the sentences that have struck me the most and which are the reason for which I am so pleased with this meeting with you. As you said just earlier, Italy is a guiding force in the world. You added that in the meeting that we just had that we believe that Italy is a first-class ally in the international field, in all fields. And again, the American people—is very attached to the alliance between our two countries.

This visit, which is a visit based on friendship, is a visit in which a head of state, such as myself, has lived through these 50 years following the end of the war, following the War of Liberation, and these were very difficult years after the war, difficult recovery years. And based on de Gasperi's policy, which has always been based first of all on the agreement among free people, de Gasperi has always taught us that the fundamental approach of a state must be based, first of all, on foreign policy. And from this and the logic of things follows domestic policy. And therefore, this agreement among free people has as its pillar the United States of America, with the sacrifice made by their men and through the various stages that I have mentioned earlier—the initial agreements that we struck in Italy among the political forces, and it was because of this that

we recognized in human rights and the values of mankind the values of peace.

Based on this approach, we have begun our fight against terrorism. I had the opportunity for 4 years when I was Minister of the Interior when, at the time, I was able to subscribe the first agreement with the United States on this issue. The danger of this violence—in other words, the violence against man and the attack against man's values continues, persists today.

I have said earlier and I repeat today, when faced with terrorism, negating human rights, there is no such thing as neutrality. There is no such thing as abstention. He who says he is neutral before the aggression against human rights, he who says that he has abstained from this, must undoubtedly be considered as someone as being against the values of mankind and man's dignity. This is what our meeting was based on, and this is why I'm so pleased with our meeting.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Clinton.** Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

### **Russian Elections**

**Q.** Mr. President, from the IMF to your own administration, the West appears to be bending over backwards to support or bolster Boris Yeltsin as the Russian elections approach. How important is it for the West to impede a comeback of the Communist Party in Russia, and what would be the repercussions if the communists succeed?

**President Clinton.** Well, first of all, I think that none of us should take any position on the elections in another country, but the United States has been clearly on the side of reform in Russia, on both political and economic reform. And what would be the repercussions of an election, of a change in government in Russia would depend entirely on how the new government proceeded: what would be their policy on political reform, on democracy and freedom; what would be their policy on relating to their neighbors; what would be their policy on economic reform in relating to the rest of the world?

So we have to judge—first of all, leave all free countries and free elections to their own devices, and then, secondly, we evaluate



other countries based on what they do. But we have to say clearly that we are on the side of reform, political reform, democracy, respecting the rights of other countries, and economic reform.

Could we have a question from an Italian journalist? Mr. President, would you like to call on—

### **Italian Elections**

**Q.** We are now in the largest democracy in the world. Can you confirm your doubts about the Presidentialism? Do you see any reason for authority—

**President Clinton.** Do I see any reason for what? Are you asking him or me? [*Laughter*]

**President Scalfaro.** You're asking me a question? Okay. All right, just so we understand each other, because if—first, I'm going to ask—all right, let's do it one thing at a time. I'd like to hear the question first. Your question is based on the assumption—and lucky you who has this assumption—that I am concerned about—so that if there is a Presidential solution—I don't have these concerns. And since this debate grew from a speech that I gave to the Parliament in Mexico last week, I said precisely that I do not have any objections to a state based on a Presidential system.

Now, if this sentence means that I'm against it, then you can explain it to me. I also added that what I believe to be crucial is that the Parliament must have full powers. And I said that wisdom would have it that there must be able to have a synthesis between these two principles.

Now if somebody says that I said that the Presidential system is dangerous, then that means that you think something, and you attribute it to me. I think—I have thoughts, but I don't sublet my thoughts. This is as clear as I can be. Now if you want to debate it, then you can go ahead, but you can't forget the fact that in Italy a few weeks ago, just a few weeks ago, I asked the government to—I asked Senator Maccanico to create the government.

This did not come from me, because according to our constitutional laws, the head of state must gather all of the proposals from all the parties—from the right wing of Mr.

Fini, which had the support of Forza Italia, and these proposals were supported by the left wing of D'Alema. D'Alema said that—he said he could not—not be in favor of Maccanico, and that's how this whole thing started.

Excuse me, one minute—in this whole exercise, the lady has a little bit more energy than the man, but you have to wait. In this attempt, there was a broad understanding on a semi-Presidential system, and a sentence that Fini expressed, and I think I'm going to repeat it verbatim here, is, “without mortifying the Parliament in its exercise of its powers,” and I won't add anything more, because the political forces don't want to add anything to it, and that's it.

**President Clinton.** I feel as if we just got to sit in on a little family feud here. [*Laughter*]

Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

### **1996 Presidential Election**

**Q.** Mr. President, now that you know who your opponent will be in the November elections, what do you think of him? Also, this election is being called, rightly or wrongly, the center against the middle. What do you think are the real issues that will divide the two candidates?

**President Clinton.** Well, first of all, I think we should put off the politics for a little longer. I mean, for many people this election has gone on for—since the second I took my hand off the Bible in 1993. And I think that's not always good for the United States. And we have work to do.

Just last week, we at least extended the debt limit, passed the line-item veto, something I have advocated for 3 years. We still have a balanced budget before us. I hope we can pass the right kind of balanced budget. We got the welfare reform issue before us. We have a lot of other—we've got the antiterrorism legislation, which I still hope can be rescued.

So I think we should work on this. And I think I should do my job, and Senator Dole should do his. And we should not have a work stoppage between now and November just because we've got an election. Then at some point in the future, we'll have our conven-

tions, and there will be plenty of time to have the political campaigns.

But I think the American people will sort out the differences pretty clearly. They laid their markers down last year. They passed their budget, and they said, "If we have the White House and the Congress, this is what we intend to do for America." That's their message. Read their budget. And I have different views, which I made clear last year. And we will be able to amplify those as we go forward. There are other differences as well.

But the main point is that we are not yet in an election—at least we shouldn't be—and we all are getting checks from the American people, both of us are and those who support us, to go to work and show up here every day. We shouldn't have a work stoppage between now and November. We ought to keep working until we pass a balanced budget, pass welfare reform, pass antiterrorism legislation, and keep going forward.

**Q.** That's not going to happen.

**President Clinton.** I don't think that you know that. I think that we might—I think we might do that. A lot of people thought that we wouldn't have the line-item veto. I had to agree to wait until next year to exercise it, but I wanted it bad enough on the books that I was glad to do that. And we've done some other things that I think are worth doing. We lifted the earnings limits on Social Security, something I have long favored and I think will really benefit this country as the demographics of our work force change. So I think we can get things done here. We need to keep doing it.

An Italian journalist.

### **Italian Elections**

**Q.** A State Department report foresees a key role for the ex-Communist Party after the Italian political polls on April 21st. How would that affect the U.S.-Italian relationship?

**President Clinton.** After the—how would what affect it? If we had a Communist-dominated government?

**Q.** Yes.

**President Clinton.** I'll answer the question the way I answered the question on Rus-

sia. First of all, we support freedom and democracy in democratic countries. So, if any government emerges as a result of the free choice of the people, under the rules of the constitution and laws of any country, that is that nation's business. We then evaluate those governments based on what their position is in relation to us: What is their economic position; what is their foreign policy position; what is their position on human rights and freedom? And that's what we would do with any government.

And if you look at the whole history of the way the Italian governments have emerged and conducted themselves in the last 50 years, I don't know that we have any cause for concern, so I wouldn't express any here. I think that's up to the people of your country to decide what kind of government you have, and then you have to decide what the policies are.

Brit [Brit Hume, ABC News].

### **1996 Presidential Election**

**Q.** Mr. President, to follow up on your last answer, Senator Dole and his advisers have indicated that the Senator will try during the course of this legislative session to pass as much of the Republican agenda as he can, to send it to you for your signature, or just as good for him politically, perhaps, your veto. Senator Daschle has indicated that he will do everything he can to block Senator Dole from doing that. So the very thing that you describe, the kind of political deadlock, election-year deadlock seems in prospect. I wonder if you might have some advice for both sides in that.

**President Clinton.** That's what they say now, but you know, Senator Dole's just been through all these primaries, and you know, since the whole purpose of the primaries was to nominate someone that hopefully will defeat me in November, they had to—they ginned up a lot of red meat, and they got their juices flowing, and that's what they were doing out there.

But I would just say that the right thing for the country is for us to pass a balanced budget plan. We have now both identified more than enough savings to get there. They know what I cannot accept. We have 95 percent agreement, I think, on welfare reform,

and we are very close on some other things—I just think it would be a mistake not to do this—so there will be still plenty of things we disagree on. I mean, after all, they put their marker down last year. You can see it in their budget. I mean, there's plenty of differences between us that won't be evaporated by anything we do that's good for America between now and November, but we both have jobs to do and we ought to do them.

It may be that they will try to pass bills that they know that I will have to veto, but I'd far rather sign them. And I just hope we can avoid this sort of gridlock. There's no need for it, particularly if you look on the budget, if you look at how we've identified—the American people must have a difficult time understanding how both sides could identify more than \$700 billion worth of savings, which is more than enough to balance the budget and give a middle-class tax cut to support childrearing and not do it.

I think that'll be very hard to explain. But I don't have a vote in Congress; I can only urge them to do it.

Is there an Italian question?

### ***Extraterritorial Impact of Sanctions***

**Q.** Mr. President, the U.S. has always been pro-free trade as a country. But recently, Congress has passed a couple of bills, the D'Amato bill and the Helms-Burton bill, that are introducing secondary boycott and the concept of extraterritoriality of U.S. law. This will create a problem for many international companies, European companies and Italian companies who want to do business with the U.S. Don't you think that, by signing those laws, you will send the wrong message of the outside wall?

And just a question for President Scalfaro. Mr. President, did you talk about Ustica and the fact that NATO may have important documents that would help to resolve this issue?

**President Clinton.** Let me answer your first question. With regard to the Helms-Burton legislation, the United States believes that we need to take a very firm position in our dealings with Cuba, which is the only nondemocratic country left in our hemisphere, and which recently shot down two American civilian airplanes over international

airspace, in plain violation of international law.

The Helms-Burton bill provides the President with a waiver authority which I believe makes it possible for me to implement that bill in a way that does not violate the commercial rules and regulations governing nations and that will not undermine our strong, broad-based, and consistent commitment to open trade among nations, and I will do my best to do that.

Perhaps the President would like to answer the question you asked him.

### ***1980 Ustica Island Airline Tragedy***

**President Scalfaro.** Yes, I did speak about this issue with President Clinton. Obviously, I didn't ask him the questions because this is a NATO issue, but I did ask him for his support for the Italian request, and I told him that this request did not come from political circles but came from a judge, the judge who has been responsible for this long trial.

I also added that there is a right—the right for Italy, which is part of NATO, to know the facts. Second place, there's a right, and it's even stronger a right that cannot disappear, which is the families' natural right to know how their loved ones died.

I also added that, in my opinion, that if we were to be denied this request, it could cause speculation which could not help anyone. President Clinton very kindly replied to me that he had never discussed this issue before in NATO, but that he would gladly examine the case and that he would give his support to the request made by the Italian judges.

**President Clinton.** Ann [Ann Devroy, Washington Post].

### ***Judge Harold Baer***

**Q.** Mr. President, is it proper for the White House to criticize a sitting Federal judge, and do you now regret appointing Judge Baer in New York?

**President Clinton.** Let me answer—you have two questions: Number one, I don't regret appointing him; number two, I think it is proper for the White House to say, or for the President personally to say if he disagrees with a judge's opinion.

After all, I think there's been a little over-reaction to this. The judge has lifetime tenure. So that to insulate the judge in our system from pressure, that does not mean that any judge should be entitled or any court should be entitled not only to lifetime tenure but a gag rule on everyone else.

So I supported the position taken by our United States Attorney in New York. On the other hand, I think that it's important not to get into the business of characterizing judges based on one decision they make. Judge Baer had a rehearing on it, made a decision, and I have nothing to add to what our United States Attorney said. But I think that it's very important that we say—at least for me to say—I support the system we have, I support the independence of the Federal judiciary. I do not believe that means that those of us who disagree with particular decisions should refrain from saying we disagree with them. It doesn't mean we won't obey them; we'll all obey them. But if we don't agree and we have reasons for not agreeing, we should be free to say that. And that's what I think should be done.

Now beyond that, however, I don't think it's fair to just characterize a judge or judges in some sort of sweeping way, as apparently members of the other party are now beginning to do. And I'm a little perplexed by that since I think only three of my judges had any—any of the ones I've appointed—had any Republicans voting against them. I believe all the rest of them went through without Republican opposition.

And there have been many articles talking about how, number one, the judges I have appointed had the highest ratings from the American Bar Association of any President since the appointments have been made; number two, they were more diverse in terms of gender and race; but number three, I have been criticized from all sides because they are less ideological. I didn't—I have tried to appoint good, sensible people to the bench.

So I hope that we won't have a big attempt to turn this into a political campaign issue. I think that it's obvious what is going on here. The people on the other side are sort of embarrassed about their crime record. They fought the crime bill. They fought the

100,000 police. They fought the Brady bill. They fought the assault weapons ban. They fought things that they used to say they were for, so now they think they can sort of get well by making some outrageous claims about the judges I have appointed.

But that does not mean that every American shouldn't feel free to express his or her opinion on a particular decision. That's why you give these judges the insulation, but you still permit the free debate.

### **Visiting Heads of State**

**Q.** You talked about European heads of state who come to the United States to promote themselves. Were you referring to a specific case?

**President Scalfaro.** No, if I were referring to someone in particular, I would have said so. You know me better than that. I said that there is a tradition. It's not a new tradition, and you know it very well. This is the tradition that, following the Second World War, that heads of state come here because it's a huge publicity stunt that they used in their own countries, or they do it to promote themselves. I wanted to say that this is not my case, and I would be offended, and it would be a lack of respect for the United States and for the President of the United States, but also for Italy and for myself. And that's all I have to say.

**President Clinton.** Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 117th news conference began at 12:36 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. President Scalfaro spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### **Interview With Jon Miller and Fred Manfra of WBAL Radio in Baltimore, Maryland**

*April 2, 1996*

**Q.** Here's the pitch to Bobby Bonilla, and Bonilla takes ball one outside. So I guess that ends some of the conversations about how Cone's arm is.

Hey, and look who just stopped in. Mr. President.

**The President.** How are you?

**Q.** How are you, Mr. President? Bill Clinton is here with us. The pitch to Bonilla——

**The President.** I'm the good luck charm when I'm on this radio——

**Q.** Oh, yeah, definitely. In fact, when you were with us last year, Bobby Bonilla came up and promptly hit one over the center field wall, and he drives this one deep into right center field——

**The President.** No, no. Yes.

**Q.** This one is bouncing over the wall.

**The President.** Ground rule double.

**Q.** And right after Bonilla hit that home run, then Ripken came up, and he did the same thing. In fact, President Clinton, you broadcast that Ripken home run which was an historic night. You were part of it. So let's go back now and take a listen here. This is how it happened.

[At this point, WBAL played an audiotape of the President's remarks in 1995.]

**The President.** That was a great day.

**Q.** We've played that 500 times since then, and everybody loves that. Here's Cal the following season as we pick up again, and President Clinton is here with us. And again, everybody with such indelible memories of that great night, Mr. President. What do you think now? Cal taking ball one from Appier.

**The President.** Well, he's got the only two RBI's, doesn't he?

**Q.** Two-run single in the first inning for Cal, and now we're a 2-2 ball game.

I'm glad you were able to come over today. We thought you might be able to be here yesterday, and then we got rained out. But we're very pleased——

**The President.** Beautiful day today, though, isn't it?

**Q.** Fantastic.

**The President.** And the wind's not too bad inside which is good.

**Q.** Two and 0 to Cal Ripken. Bonilla at second. Down around the knees.

**The President.** Strike.

**Q.** Two balls and one strike.

**The President.** A little too low to hit, though.

**Q.** Did you get a chance to see Cal before the game?

**The President.** Yes. He baited me about going out on the pitcher's mound because

last year I stood in front of the mound and started—[laughter]—so he said, you know, "That's what that mound is there for. You're supposed to step up on top of it." [Laughter]

**Q.** And he fouls it off back on the plate.

**The President.** So I asked him if he were baiting me. He said, "No, no." He said, "If you don't want to go out there and do what you're supposed to do, it's all right with me." [Laughter]

**Q.** Well that's great. You got the Ripken treatment.

**The President.** So I had to go up there and stand on the mound.

**Q.** You're like part of the family now if he was talking to you like that. Well, you stood up there, and you threw a strike in there. Nice going.

**The President.** It was a slow strike, but I got it over.

**Q.** Two and 2 to Cal Ripken, batting with two down and Bonilla at second in the last of the third inning. Kevin Appier.

**The President.** He hit a hard ball there. That was a hard, good double.

**Q.** Now the pitch. There's a looping liner. Shallow center——

**The President.** Get down. Get down.

**Q.** Base hit. Here comes Bonilla, and Ripken has done it again. Another Presidential base hit for Cal Ripken. We may have to have you on every time he bats.

Well, it looked like he got a little slider that kind of hung up there above the knees, and he bloomed it into shallow center. And Bobby Bonilla scored. I have a feeling that Alomar, Palmeiro, Bonilla, Ripken, they're going to combine for a few runs this year.

**The President.** They'll do well. And this guy, Surhoff, is good, too. He can hit.

**Q.** He hit .320 last year with Milwaukee. Very fine. Not a power-type hitter, but he gets the ball to all fields, and he takes ball one, down and in, on a breaking ball. One ball and no strikes.

Now last year you had your daughter, Chelsea, here and——

**The President.** She was here. She's a little jealous that I'm here today, but she had to go to school today. [Laughter] You know, she and her mother just took a wonderful trip. They went to see our forces in Bosnia, and then they went to Turkey and Greece. So

I told her she got to go to Turkey, Greece, and Bosnia, and I got to go to Baltimore. [Laughter]

**Q.** So you're even.

**The President.** That's the deal. That's right.

**Q.** Yeah, you're even. Here's a foul ball back into the upper deck. One ball, one strike, to Surhoff.

Well, we thought maybe she'd get spring break or something. Next time on opening day, declare spring break over here.

One ball, one strike——

**The President.** They missed so many days this winter; they need to go more, not less.

**Q.** That's right.

**The President.** It's good to see springtime out here, isn't it?

**Q.** It sure is.

**The President.** We had a tough winter.

**Q.** Baseball has brought the sunshine back. There's a pitch inside to Surhoff. Two and 1, the count.

**The President.** Look at the flag blowing up there. You'll see how hard the wind is, though, and you don't feel it in here which is good.

**Q.** Yeah, I've been downtown on top of one of the buildings. The flag is standing straight out at attention out there, but inside here, very comfortable.

But I was impressed. I mean, you walked out on the mound, and we've seen guys bounce them in there. But you put it right in. Did you warm up ahead of time?

**The President.** I did. I got to—hurry.

**Q.** Pop foul over third base side over into the seats, reaching in.

**The President.** He nearly got there, didn't he?

**Q.** Yeah. And not getting it was Lockhart. Gave it a good shot. Two and 2, the count.

Who warmed you up? You played catch with somebody?

**The President.** Well, Mr. Angelos threw me a few balls.

**Q.** Yeah?

**The President.** Yeah—[laughter]—believe it or not. We threw about 20 balls together, and then I threw about 20, 30 more balls down there, just fooling around. And then I came out and put a jacket on and a cap on.

**Q.** Two and 2 to Surhoff. And a fast ball tailing outside for a ball. Three and 2, the count.

Well, we put out tapes and CD's of the whole Ripken thing last September and raised money for charity.

**The President.** That's great.

**Q.** And everywhere we went after they completed that, people commenting about how much fun it was that you were on the air. And when Cal hit that home run, it was—there you were, the First Fan.

**The President.** Well, we were all so happy, you know. It was a—what?

**Q.** That's what B.J. Surhoff is saying as they call him out on strikes.

**The President.** It looked like it was inside, didn't it?

**Q.** Two feet inside, I thought. And that's what B.J.'s arguing, too. But he's called out on strikes.

**The President.** I told—I went down to see the umpires before the game, and I said that I really wanted to see them because they were the only people in the country that got second-guessed more than I did. [Laughter] So I like those guys. I'm for them, you know. They are the company misery loves. [Laughter]

**Q.** Well, that's it for the Orioles in the third inning. The President of the United States is here with us, Bill Clinton.

**The President.** One run on two hits.

**Q.** And one man left on.

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** And at the end of three, it's the Orioles, 3; Kansas City, 2.

[At this point, WBAL took a commercial break.]

**Q.** Inning number four, now, at Camden Yards. Jon Miller, Fred Manfra, along with the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, as the Royals come to bat. The Orioles are back in front, 3 to 2. Johnny Daemon stands in, a left-handed hitter. Takes a strike from Mike Mussina.

President Clinton was just commenting to us between innings about what a beautiful scene it is here at Camden Yards.

**The President.** It's just magnificent today. I wish everybody could see it. It's so really beautiful.

**Q.** There's a pop-up, shallow left. Ripken, the shortstop, out. Near the foul line on the outfield grass. And he makes the catch.

**The President.** I think everybody here's having a good time. Just the feel of being here, you know, makes you so happy.

**Q.** You know, it's been said that—I mean, opening day in baseball really, actually for a baseball fan, carries all of the same sentiment that we ascribe to New Year's Eve, you know, a clean slate, a fresh start, high hopes.

**The President.** You bet.

**Q.** But it's even more tangible in baseball because we really know that they've got a shot.

Here is Michael Tucker, the clean-up man. Three to 2 for the Orioles. And the pitch, and it's a ball down and in.

Now you were telling us between innings that you had a chance to go down to Atlanta and see the layout there.

**The President.** I looked at the Olympic Stadium which is magnificent. The American people will love it. And then after the Olympics, a section in the back is going to be taken down like what we now see from here over center field, and it's going to be converted into the Braves' new stadium.

But the unique thing about it is, it's going to be—the base line is going to be even closer—I mean, the foul line is going to be even closer and the base line, too, to the stands than here. And home plate's going to be even tucked in tighter than here, so that the average distance from base line to the stands will be about 45 feet. And the major league ballpark average is something like 70 feet. So even though the Braves have this magnificent pitching staff, they're going to be tested because they won't get as many easy foul-outs.

**Q.** Here's a fly ball, shallow left. In comes Hammonds, and he makes the catch for out number two.

Well, that's a good point because, I mean, the current stadium in Atlanta probably has more foul territory than any other ball park.

**The President.** Yes. A little more than average, yeah.

**Q.** Yeah.

**The President.** But, I mean, the pitchers are fabulous. So they'll do fine. But it just interested me that they are going to have a little extra handicap there. And of course, vis-

iting pitching staffs as well. So they—arguably, it will be a fair fight on everything.

**Q.** So it sounds like they didn't ask Greg Maddux about how they should build that ballpark. [Laughter]

**The President.** Actually, I asked him about it when they were—when the Braves came to the White House for the World Series, and their starting—you know, their big four were all there, and they didn't seem too worried about it. They were ready to roll.

**Q.** If you're good, you're good.

**The President.** Yeah.

**Q.** Mussina here, I mean, there's less foul territory than average here, and doesn't seem to bother him much.

**The President.** He's a fine pitcher. Oh, he's so good.

**Q.** The batter is Keith Lockhart, and it's one ball and one strike.

**The President.** Mussina's got a great future, too. I mean, he's got a—young, strong.

**Q.** Young guy. Still lives in his hometown. Goes up and coaches the basketball team in his old high school. You know, instead of going off on some yacht to the south of France, I mean, he's just back home, and he likes to work with the young kids.

Two and 1 to Lockhart. Where are you headed now? You've got—

**The President.** I've got to go back to—the President of Italy is here today. And we're having the Italian state dinner tonight.

**Q.** Now, in fact, I understand that my buddy Keith Berman from ESPN is supposed to be a guest at that state dinner.

**The President.** I think that's right. I think he's going to be there.

**Q.** Well, keep him away from the President of Italy. That's all I can say. [Laughter]

**The President.** And we're going to have a lot of distinguished Italian-Americans.

**Q.** Two-2 pitch now to Lockhart. That's a base hit down the left field line. Hammonds hustles over to cut it off. Rounding first and holding is Lockhart with his second straight hit. Three to 2, Kansas City trailing the Orioles here in the fourth inning.

Well, that sounds like a great night. And again, we really appreciate your stopping by.

**The President.** Thanks. Glad to do it.

**Q.** Any time you feel like a ball game, well, stop by and visit us.

**The President.** You've got a deal.

**Q.** All right.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Q.** That's the President, Bill Clinton, threw out the first ball—threw a strike, I might add, and he actually warmed up, he said, with Orioles' Chairman of the Board Peter Angelos ahead of time.

**The President.** I did, and I was on the pitcher's mound because Ripken taunted me up there. [Laughter]

Thank you.

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** That's a pop-up.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:21 p.m. in the WBAL broadcast booth at Orioles Park at Camden Yards. A portion of this interview could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### Interview With Mel Proctor, Jim Palmer, and Mike Flanagan of Home Team Sports in Baltimore

April 2, 1996

**Q.** Welcome back to Camden Yards. The Orioles lead the Kansas City Royals 3–2. It is opening day, and President Bill Clinton was here today to throw out the first ball, and he'll be joining us momentarily, as soon as we get him miked up.

Well, we've got two right-handers, myself and Jim Palmer, and two left-handers in the booth now, Flanagan and the President.

**Q.** We finally have some balance up here.

**Q.** Can we get a Presidential chair in here? Thank you very much.

How are you, sir?

**The President.** Great. It's been a good game, don't you think?

**Q.** I agree.

**The President.** And a beautiful day.

**Q.** What was that first pitch you threw? Fast ball, slider, curve?

**The President.** It wasn't fast. It wasn't fast, but I had a good time.

**Q.** This is a good time of the year for you. I know you're a big college basketball fan, having gone to Arkansas. Unfortunately, the Razorbacks were eliminated, didn't make it to the finals.

**The President.** I was very proud of them. They started four freshmen and made it to

the Sweet 16, so I think they did well. It was a great tournament this year, I think. Everybody who watched the games must have felt it was a great tournament.

**Q.** I know you love being here on opening day.

**The President.** I do. And this has been exciting, you know? It's great to see this new Baltimore team. You know, they've got a chance to go all the way, and yet if my count's right, all their RBI's go to Mr. Ripken today.

**Q.** That's right. [Laughter]

**Q.** Yes, he got 30 percent of what he had in all spring training. And of course, they all want to get to the White House, because I know you had the Atlanta Braves there in early March.

**The President.** I did.

**Q.** I know you get out to a game or two during the season. Do you watch at the White House when you're home?

**The President.** I do quite often. I watch the games when they're on, especially at night. When I come home late at night and I'm kind of keyed up and I don't want to go to sleep, I often watch the games.

**Q.** A drive to right center field, Johnny Daemon makes the catch on the warning track.

**The President.** Great play. That's a great play.

**Q.** Johnny Daemon taking an extra base hit away from Chris Hoiles. So you were saying you watch our games late at night. I guess in essence what you're saying is that we put you to sleep.

**The President.** Or keep me awake. [Laughter]

**Q.** This is the youngster that last year, at Double A, got about 188 at bats, but the reason Bob Boone left him in center field, even though they have a very good center fielder in Tom Goodwin, is because of his ability to make plays like that.

**Q.** Here's Tony Tarasco, who struck out his first time up.

**Q.** Did you play baseball yourself in high school?

**The President.** My school didn't have a team, but we had church league and Boys Club. We had all those. I played in some of those teams when I was a kid. I loved it.



**Q.** I know you love to golf; did you play any other sports growing up?

**The President.** Yes, but only—not in school; I played church league basketball, softball, baseball, but you know, everybody that grew up where I did wound up loving sports.

**Q.** Now, are you allowed to have a favorite team?

**The President.** I think so. In the basketball years—in the basketball season, excuse me, people understand it when I cheer for my home State team or for my alma mater, Georgetown. And when I was a kid, interestingly enough, in Arkansas, the St. Louis Cardinals were the closest baseball team to us. There were no Texas teams then. So we used to listen to Cardinals baseball. That's what I studied to when I was a boy.

**Q.** Is that right?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** I know you were out here last year when Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive game streak.

**The President.** I was.

**Q.** What did that mean to you?

**The President.** I think it meant a lot to me not only as a baseball fan but as a citizen and as the President now of someone who really wants this country to work well. The idea that a man could show that kind of discipline and devotion to his work and stay with one team for a career in a time and age when a lot of people don't last very long because they don't have the discipline to do it and just go for the big-time bucks in the short run and float around from team to team, or in the case of non-athletes from company to company, I think it really sort of was reassuring, not only to me but to the American people to see that kind of record set and see that kind of discipline and loyalty. I liked it a lot.

**Q.** Are you aware that Ken Griffey, Jr., is a Presidential candidate and has promised, if elected, to let people not pay taxes for 2 months?

**The President.** Yes, I'm worried about that. I'm worried about him. I figure that—at the very least he's going to take more votes away from me than Senator Dole. [Laughter] I'm really worried about it. I think—you know, I've always been a big fan of his. I

feel sort of stabbed by it. It's breaking my heart.

**Q.** You wouldn't consider that, would you?

**The President.** What?

**Q.** Not having taxes for 2 months?

**The President.** What I want to know is how he's going to pay the bills. I'll consider it. I want to hear the rest of the deal. How is he going to not pay the bills?

**Q.** Base hit for Jeffrey Hammonds, who is two for two—a double his first time up and now a single. So that's a good sign. Hammonds is back healthy and swinging the bat well.

**The President.** Looking good.

**Q.** Getting back to Cal Ripken and all of the pressure that he must have been under last year during that streak—and you can certainly identify with pressure in your office—what do you see about the way he handled the pressure?

**The President.** I think he did what I try to do; he didn't vary his routine. He just focused on the day that was before him. And I think that he must have had the record in mind, but it didn't paralyze his play. Even the night he was here, the night he broke the record, he hit a home run on a 0-3 pitch. So he still had enough presence of mind not to even just take the walk, you know? He was there, ready. He was playing. He was alive to every moment, and I think that's what you have to do. When you're under a lot of pressure, you have to just take a deep breath and do what you know to do.

**Q.** Pitch is low to Brady Anderson, who has struck out and grounded out. We're visiting with President Clinton.

**The President.** I think you've got to give a lot of credit to conditioning, too. And the way he keeps himself in shape in the off-season and during the season must have an incredible amount to do with the fact that he was able to play relatively injury-free all these years. And that requires a lot of discipline.

**Q.** And you know, a lot of discipline—Mike and I played for the Orioles for a number of years, and a lot of people wonder what it's like to play in the big league. Are you enjoying being President? Is it what you thought it was going to be?

**The President.** Yes. Oh, yes, I enjoy it very much. I'm honored every day when I go to work. There are some parts of it that are a little rougher than I thought it would be, but I have no complaints. I signed on for the whole show, and I'm just honored to have a chance to do it, to make a difference, to stand up for what I believe in, and to serve. It's an incredible opportunity, and if I had it to do over again, I'd do it in a heartbeat.

**Q.** There are no off days as President?

**The President.** No. But I always tell everybody—

**Q.** Even Cal gets one off in the spring.

**The President.** —even the bad days are good, you know? Even the bad days are good. You know, the only frustrating thing is when you come up against a problem that you know cries out for some sort of resolution, and you're not sure you have the power to do anything about it, or when you get a problem where it seems 50-50 on both sides, you just have to kind of feel your way through to the answer, but you're not—neither you nor anyone else can be sure about whether it will come out all right. Those things are frustrating, but in terms of the pressure and the tension of the job, I don't mind that at all. I like it. It's part of the challenge.

**Q.** Three and 0, the count to Brady Anderson. Jeffrey Hammonds is at first with two outs.

**The President.** Come on, Brady, you need a hit.

**Q.** There goes Hammonds, throw to second by MacFarlane. He bounces it.

**The President.** He made it.

**Q.** But it gets him anyway.

**The President.** No.

**Q.** You don't think so, Mr. President?

**The President.** I don't think so.

**Q.** Well, maybe we can get the umpire to change it.

**Q.** Could we appeal?

**The President.** No, no. I went to see the umpires before the game. Let's look again.

**Q.** Did they have their glasses on?

**The President.** Yes, they got him.

**Q.** They did.

**The President.** They got him. He was right.

**Q.** We'll be back, Mr. President, in a moment. Take a commercial break, we'll be right back.

[At this point, HTS took a commercial break.]

**Q.** Welcome back to Camden Yards. Mel Proctor with Jim Palmer, Mike Flanagan. We're visiting with the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton, who is enjoying opening day here at the ball park.

Good to have you with us.

**The President.** Thank you. It's really beautiful here, isn't it? It's a fabulous park.

**Q.** We think it's the best.

**The President.** One nice thing is, look how hard the wind is blowing, and you see the flags up there, and yet it's kind of calm in here, so it doesn't seem to be distracting the game.

**Q.** Joe Vidiella will lead off the fifth inning for the Royals, with the Orioles ahead 3-2. Vidiella was called out on strikes his first time up.

We were talking about your job and the enjoyment you derive from it, but what is the biggest challenge you have faced so far since you have been in office?

**The President.** The initial challenge was to try to get the economy turned around and get the deficit down, get the interest rates down, get the jobs coming back into the economy. Now the big frustration is how to make—how to get that economic benefit of—we have over 8 million new jobs in the economy. Unemployment is low, lower than the last 25-year average. But there's still a lot of people that feel uncertain, because things are changing so fast. And now the biggest challenge is figuring out how to keep the job machine going and still give the baseball fans in America, the working people, the security that they deserve while they are on the job, some certainty that if they work harder they can get a raise, they can have a retirement, they can provide health care for their kids, that kind of thing.

And no one knows how to do this. It's a new challenge. We have never had a time before when we generated so many new jobs, and the economy was performing well but we still have people uncertain out there. So that's our biggest challenge today.

**Q.** One out, Mike MacFarlane up for the Royals. He doubled and scored his first time up.

We were talking about somewhat of a background in sports as a youngster. Did you take any lessons away from competition that you use now in your life and on the job?

**The President.** Absolutely. Two, particularly. No matter how good you are at what you're doing, most things work out better when teams do it together. People work better together than they do on their own most of the time. And the second lesson is the obvious one: Never give up. It's not over till it's over.

**Q.** Were you very frustrated as a sports fan during the baseball strike?

**The President.** Yes, very. Especially that year. It's something that you can identify with as a pitcher. It was the greatest hitting year in 50 years. I mean, for people like me that grew up memorizing the baseball statistics, not just of all of my heroes in the fifties when I was a boy but going back to the twenties and thirties, I knew the hitting records of all the old players. The idea that we were going to have a—literally a 50-year record in hitting. And I know there are all kind of reasons for it, the expansion teams. I know all that. But to see that just thrown away, it just broke my heart. For all us of nuts, it was a bad deal.

**Q.** Thanks for being with us, sir. It's been a pleasure.

**The President.** Thanks.

**Q.** Come back any time.

**The President.** Thank you. This, however, is going to be a good year.

**Q.** Yeah, I imagine, and a busy year.

**The President.** A good year for baseball.

**Q.** And also a busy year for you.

**The President.** But I'll still keep up.

**Q.** Okay. Good luck. Nice seeing you.

**Q.** A real pleasure.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Q.** We'll be back with more from Camden Yards in a moment. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Give me a golf game some day.

**Q.** Okay. You got a deal.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the HTS broadcast booth at Orioles Park at Camden Yards.

## Remarks at a Dinner Honoring President Scalfaro

April 2, 1996

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. President Scalfaro, Mariana Scalfaro, members of the Italian delegation, distinguished guests: Hillary and I are delighted to welcome President Scalfaro to the White House. We were so warmly received by him in both Rome and Naples in 1994.

President Scalfaro's long public career and his lifelong devotion to the people of Italy mark him as one of the great democrats of our era. He has always been a great friend of the United States. And during the tremendous changes that have affected Italy and all Western democracies since the end of the cold war, he has been a clear voice for civility and decency in public life.

Today we had a serious talk about the issues we are working on together, but tonight it is fitting that we celebrate the extraordinary friendship between Italy and the United States and between the people of Italy and the people of the United States. And tonight, Mr. President, on behalf of all the American people, we thank Italy for the greatest of all its gifts to us, its people. For America has been enriched beyond measure by Italian-Americans. In this century we have been treated to supreme grace on our sporting fields by athletes from Joe Dimaggio to Joe Montana. In the fine arts we've been blessed with the exuberance of Italians in music from Toscanini to Sinatra to Jon Bon Jovi. [Laughter] We have seen the path-breaking innovation of Frank Stella in painting, and we have seen Italian after Italian after Italian grace the silver screen, from Frank Capra to this year's best actor, Nicholas Cage.

We have, as everyone knows, benefited enormously from contributions to our public life from the legendary Fiorello LaGuardia to Senator John Pastore, Judge John Sirica, Governor Cuomo, Geraldine Ferraro, the many Italian-American mayors here tonight, the many Italian-Americans now serving in

Congress, and to the Italian-Americans who serve on the court, beginning with the Supreme Court Justice, who has also joined us this evening.

Of course, there are millions more. The Italian-Americans who built our businesses and our farms, who are the backbone of our communities, they deserve so much of the credit for America's strength and greatness.

Many believe the remarkable story of Italians in America began with the immigration at the early part of this century. But in fact, the pattern was set long before that by an Italian named Henry de Tonti, born Enrico Tonti in Gaeta. A renowned soldier, sometime diplomat, fearless adventurer, Tonti was the most trusted deputy of the great French explorer, La Salle. You could say he was La Salle's Leon Panetta. *[Laughter]*

He had an incredible string of accomplishments. He was the first European to build a ship on our Great Lakes. He and La Salle together explored the Mississippi River. He brought settlers and traders to the great State of Illinois. And historians credit him with being the true father of that State.

This remarkable Italian came to my attention because in 1686 he founded a settlement about midway between Illinois and the Gulf of Mexico on the Mississippi River. The town became known as Arkansas Post, the very first settlement in my home State.

La Salle said that Tonti's energy and resolve made him, and I quote, "equal to anything." In their long and rich history, Italian-Americans have proved themselves equal to anything. And so the extraordinary friendship between the United States and Italy has also proved equal to anything.

The extraordinary friendship between the United States and Italy, rooted in our common love of liberty and democracy, our shared energy and resolve, will help us rise to the challenges of the 21st century and will ensure that we will always be the closest of allies, the best of friends.

And so ladies and gentlemen, let us raise a glass to the partnership between our nations, to the Italian-American community, to the President of Italy and his daughter. *Viva l'Italia*, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

## **Proclamation 6877—National Day of Prayer, 1996**

*April 2, 1996*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

America's heritage is rich with expressions of faith in God. Indeed, the desire for religious freedom was one of the chief reasons that early settlers risked their lives to come to this land. Many of those who braved the long ocean journey were men and women of devout religious beliefs who sought a new home where they might worship without persecution. The authors of our Constitution recognized this history in the language of the first amendment, and through times of uncertainty, sorrow, and pain, the citizens of the United States have called upon the wisdom and mercy of the Almighty for guidance and strength.

A National Day of Prayer, first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, stems from the understanding that faith is a fundamental part of our Nation's social fabric. In an impassioned speech before the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin put the importance of prayer in perspective, proposing that "... prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business . . . ." And so it has been to this day in statehouses all over our great land.

Today we cherish the liberties the first immigrants fought so hard to obtain, and we enjoy a degree of freedom and prosperity only dreamed of 200 years ago. And though our citizens come from every nation on Earth and observe an extraordinary variety of religious faith and traditions, prayer remains at the heart of the American spirit. We face many of the same challenges as our forebears—ensuring the survival of freedom and sustaining faith in an often hostile world—and we continue to pray, as they did, for the blessings of a just and benevolent God to guide our Nation's course.

This occasion calls us to affirm our country's spiritual roots and to humbly express our gratitude to the source of our abundant good fortune. As we seek to renew the values that have long strengthened America's families and communities, let us reach out to God and to one another for wisdom and courage. We should celebrate this day in the tradition of our founders who believed that God governs in the affairs of men and women, and who based their greatest hopes, dreams, and aspirations on the surety of divine protection.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm annually our dependence on Almighty God by recognizing a "National Day of Prayer."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2, 1996, as a National Day of Prayer. I encourage every citizen of this great Nation to pray, each in his or her own manner, seeking strength from God to face the challenges of today, requesting guidance for the uncertainties of tomorrow, and giving thanks for the rich blessings that our Nation has enjoyed throughout our history. "Do not pray for easy lives," said John F. Kennedy in 1963, "Pray to be stronger . . . ." May it be so with each of us.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:10 a.m., April 3, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 3, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4.

### **Remarks to Commerce Department Employees on the Aircraft Tragedy in Croatia**

*April 3, 1996*

Thank you, Dr. Good. Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President and the First Lady and the members of the Cabinet and I want-

ed to come here to be with the employees of the Commerce Department at this very difficult hour. Hillary and I have just come from Ron Brown's home, visiting with Alma and Michael and their family and friends who are there. And we wanted to come and spend a few moments with you.

As all of you know, the plane carrying Secretary Brown and his delegation, including a number of your colleagues, business leaders, and members of the United States military, went down today near Dubrovnik, Croatia. We do not know for sure what happened there. But I wanted to come here today, as it is almost Passover for American Jews and I know a lot of you will want to be leaving soon, just to have the chance to say a few words to you.

The first thing I want to say is before I left I asked Alma, I said, "Alma, what do you want me to say when I go to the Commerce Department?" She said, "Tell them Ron was proud of them, that he liked them, that he believed in them, and that he fought for the Commerce Department, and tell them that you're going to do that now," which I thought was an incredible thing.

I've known Ron Brown a long time. I was always amazed at the way he was continually reaching out trying to bridge the differences between people, always trying to get the best out of people, always believing that we could do more than we have done. In a way, this job was sort of ready-made for him at this moment in history, and he loved it very much.

Most of the time, Ron Brown spent using the power of the Commerce Department to find ways to give opportunity to ordinary Americans, to generate jobs for the American economy and build better futures for American citizens. But when we met earlier this week, right before he left for the Balkans, he was so excited because he thought that, along with these business leaders and the other very able people from the Commerce Department on this mission, that they would be able to use the power of the American economy to help the peace take hold in the Balkans, to help people in that troubled place have the kind of decent, honorable, and wonderfully ordinary lives that we Americans too often take for granted. And he was so excited

by it. If you saw any of the clips on the television that have been showing today about his meetings yesterday, you could see that.

I just want to say on a very personal note that I hope all Americans today will be grateful for what all the people who were on that plane did, for the military personnel, for the business leaders, who didn't have to go on that mission, who did it not out of a sense of their own profit but out of a sense of what they could do to help America bring peace.

To all of the wonderful people in the Commerce Department that were on that plane, some of them very young, one of them who came to our campaign in 1992 thinking the most important thing he could do was to ride a bicycle across the country, asking people to vote for the Vice President and me, wound up a trusted employee at the Commerce Department; to all of their loved ones and their families, their friends, I want to say I am very grateful for their lives and their service.

I also want to say just one last thing about Ron Brown. He was one of the best advisers and ablest people I ever knew. And he was very, very good at everything he ever did. Whether he was the Commerce Secretary or a civil rights leader or something else, he was always out there just giving it his all. And he always believed that his mission in life was to put people's dreams within their reach if they were willing to work for it and believe in themselves.

When we were over at his home a few moments ago, Alexis Herman, who as many of you know used to work with Ron at the Democratic Committee, and they've been friends a long time, told me that his favorite Scripture verse was that wonderful verse from Isaiah:

They who wait upon the Lord shall have their strength renewed. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and faint not.

Well, Ron Brown walked and ran and flew through life. And he was a magnificent life force. And those of us who loved him will always be grateful for his friendship and his warmth.

But every American should be grateful that at a very difficult moment in our Nation's history, he made this Commerce De-

partment what it was meant to be, an instrument for realizing the potential of every American. For all of you who played a role in that, I ask for your prayers for Secretary Brown and his family, for your colleagues and their families, for the business leaders and their families, and for our beloved military officers and their families. And I ask you always, always to be fiercely proud for what you have done and very grateful for the opportunity to have done it.

I'd like to ask now that we bow for a moment of silence.

*[At this point, a moment of silence was observed.]*

Amen.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:09 p.m. at the Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Ron Brown's wife, Alma Brown, and his son, Michael Brown.

### **Message on the Observance of Passover, 1996**

*April 3, 1996*

Warm greetings to all who are celebrating Passover.

This festival chronicles God's deliverance of the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. With faith and determination, these courageous people sought liberation from slavery and a path to freedom. Although their journey was long and fraught with peril, the children of Israel reached the Promised Land to rebuild their communities in the sweet air of freedom.

More than three millenia later, Jews across America and around the world gather during Passover to commemorate this epic journey. The holiday seder itself is rich with symbols—of the suffering endured by the Israelites in Egypt, the difficulties encountered during their exodus, and their unquenchable hope for the future. And throughout this ritual meal, unifying and sanctifying it, prayers are recited in praise of God and in gratitude for His intervention in the struggle of the Israelites.

This year Passover has fresh meaning for us. The seder's bitter herbs and salt water

remind us of our sorrow at the death of Yitzhak Rabin and the loss of so many innocents to the evil of terrorism. But as this harsh winter ends, we remember as well that God still lights our path and that, with courage and hope, the best in human nature will still prevail.

Hillary and I extend warm wishes for a memorable Passover.

**Bill Clinton**

**Remarks Following a Memorial Service for Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown**

*April 4, 1996*

Ladies and gentlemen, we just had a very moving memorial service not only to grieve but to celebrate the life of Secretary Brown and the other employees of the National Government, our military people, and the business leaders who were on that mission. We thanked God for their lives, we prayed for their families, and we came together in our grief and rededication. And we pointed out that it was 28 years ago on this day that Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis, working for what he believed in.

Today I spoke with the parents of one of the young women who died who worked for the Department of Commerce, who said they had spent their careers as school teachers, raising their daughter to believe that she could make a difference and that she ought to try. And they were very proud that she died doing what she believed in, trying to aid the peace in Bosnia.

And so that is how we are trying to think about this very difficult thing on this beautiful spring day in Easter Week.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. outside St. Johns Church on Lafayette Park.

**Proclamation 6878—Death of Those Aboard U.S. Air Force Aircraft in Croatia**

*April 4, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

As a mark of respect for Secretary Ronald H. Brown and all those killed in the April 3, 1996, crash of the U.S. Air Force aircraft in Croatia, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions through Wednesday, April 10, 1996. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 5, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 8.

**Message on the Observance of Easter, 1996**

*April 4, 1996*

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Easter.

Across America and around the world, Christians gather on Easter Sunday to commemorate the central event in the history of their salvation: the Resurrection of Jesus. This holy day marks that moment in time when good conquered evil, hope overcame despair, and life triumphed over death. Just as spring brings warmth and beauty to the earth after a harsh winter, Easter brings joy and new life to the spirit, reminding us that no mistake or failing of the past can put us beyond the reach of God's mercy.

In this age of great challenge and even greater possibility, Easter's timeless message strengthens us for the tasks before us. As we celebrate in churches and cathedrals, at sunrise services and in family gatherings, we remember that our lives have great purpose and value. We recognize that the life and words of Jesus call us to works of caring and compassion, to giving more than receiving. His death and resurrection are powerful reminders of how God's grace is still at work in the world in which we live today.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all for a wonderful Easter celebration.

**Bill Clinton**

### **Statement on Signing the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996**

*April 4, 1996*

I am today signing into law H.R. 2854, the "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996." H.R. 2854 would authorize most agriculture programs for fiscal years 1996–2002, including commodities, credit, conservation, rural development, trade, and nutrition.

I am signing H.R. 2854 with reservation because I believe the bill fails to provide an adequate safety net for family farmers. The fixed payments in the bill do not adjust to changes in market conditions, which would leave farmers, and the rural communities in which they live, vulnerable to reductions in crop prices or yields. I am firmly committed to submitting legislation and working with the Congress next year to strengthen the farm safety net.

I am, however, keenly aware that farm legislation is long overdue and American farmers need to know now the conditions under which they are operating. In addition, the bill includes a considerable number of my Administration's proposals. I believe these authorities will enhance our environmental and economic development goals. They will form a lasting legacy of the 1996 farm bill.

The hallmark of the bill's commodity title is the planting flexibility provisions. At long last, farmers will be free to plant for the market, not for government programs. The expansion of planting flexibility will improve U.S. competitiveness in world markets. In addition, this legislation will reduce the adverse environmental effects of production agriculture and greatly simplify farm programs.

I am very pleased with the rural development title of the bill. The Congress has incorporated the Administration's principle that we must continue our investment in traditional infrastructure while expanding the investment in information infrastructure and in human capital. These investments will ensure that all Americans, regardless of how remote an area they live in, will have the opportunity to better their lives and share in the economic growth spurred by the revolution in information technology.

My Administration is keenly aware that there is no "one size fits all" Washington solution to local economic development needs. That is why we proposed the Rural Performance Partnership Initiative, which provides flexibility to States to tailor Federal program funds to their unique situation. I salute the Congress for enacting this proposal, as well as providing \$300 million in additional resources for rural development and agricultural research through the "Fund for Rural America."

I also wholeheartedly endorse the bill's conservation provisions. The bill will enhance contributions to environmental quality and farm income from the Conservation Reserve Program, a program whose importance I have repeatedly stressed. This bill provides more than \$1 billion over 7 years for on-farm conservation measures, including assistance for livestock producers, which will help prevent soil erosion and clear our streams and air. I am also glad to see that farmers will



still have the choice to enroll permanent easements in the Wetlands Reserve Program.

In addition, the bill would provide \$200 million, with the possibility of an additional \$150 million, for restoration of the Everglades. This project is one of the Administration's top environmental priorities, and the funds in this bill are a good downpayment toward our goal. Moreover, I call on the Congress to enact the Administration's comprehensive Everglades restoration plan, including the one-cent per pound marketing assessment on Florida sugar. This assessment would ensure that the benefitting industry pays its fair share.

I am also generally pleased with the trade title, which includes almost all of the Administration's proposed export program enhancements. While the Administration opposed the reduced funding for certain export programs in the bill, it will use these, and newly authorized tools, to expand upon the record levels of agricultural exports we have achieved. This will ensure that America's farmers continue to take advantage of the growing opportunities in the world market.

I am disappointed that the Congress has rolled back an important reform of the crop insurance program, which was enacted just 18 months ago, to ensure that every farmer has crop insurance where it is available. Still, the farm bill embodies a clear commitment to maintain crop insurance as an alternative to costly and unreliable ad hoc crop disaster programs of the past. In this respect, the Administration strongly supports the development of new "revenue insurance" approaches over the coming years so that the crop insurance safety net can play an increasingly large role in the farm economy. This is a key component of our strategy to continue to help farmers manage the risks they face.

While commodity and conservation programs remain the core of any farm bill, much of the future of agriculture and rural America will be determined by many other factors outside the traditional scope of those programs. This bill recognizes the growing importance of those forces and incorporates many of the reforms the Administration sought. While seeking improvements in the farm safety net, I will also charge my Admin-

istration with using the bill's new tools to ensure that agriculture sustains the growth it has achieved, that the pace of environmental improvements is accelerated, and that we create new economic opportunities for farmers and rural citizens.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
April 4, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 2854, approved April 4, was assigned Public Law No. 104-127.

**Remarks at a Tree Planting  
Ceremony Honoring Those Who  
Died in the Aircraft Tragedy in  
Croatia**

*April 5, 1996*

Last year, as we prepared to go to Oklahoma City, Hillary and I planted a dogwood tree here in honor of the public servants who lost their lives there. And this year as we prepare to go back, almost a year later, we are planting, sadly, another tree in honor of Secretary Brown and all the public servants of the United States and the citizens who lost their lives in the plane crash. We hope the prayers of the American people will be with them and their families at this difficult time. We hope everyone will honor the contributions they made to the United States and the welfare of our people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

**Remarks at the Plaque Dedication  
Ceremony for the New YMCA Day  
Care Center in Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma**

*April 5, 1996*

Thank you very much. Governor Keating, Senator Nickles, Mr. Mayor, Lieutenant Governor Fallin, Congressman Brewster, Congressman Istook, to the families that are behind me and the children that just made the walk with us, and their parents, I thank them.

I was especially glad to see Brandon and Rebecca Denny, because they came to see

Hillary and me in the White House and I thought they would be glad to see us again. But I asked them if they remembered meeting me, they said, "Yes. How's Socks?" [Laughter] So I thought to myself things are maybe beginning to get back to normal in Oklahoma City, at least the children have their priorities in order.

Hillary and I thought a lot about where we were last year when we came down here to be with you and with our friend James Lee Witt, the FEMA Director, who is also here today. And I wondered what I ought to say. Let me begin by noting that this is, after all, Good Friday. It is a day for those of us who are Christians that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption. And in a way that is the lesson of this little walk we just took with these children and their parents, from a place where we mourn lives cut so brutally short to this place where, thanks to you and all of those who the Lieutenant Governor mentioned, we can truly celebrate new beginnings.

I hope the lesson of the walk and this effort will comfort and inspire all of those here in Oklahoma City and especially those who are, as the Governor said, still hurting, still searching, still working to put their lives back together. I know there's nothing that anyone can do to bring back the children whose lives were taken from us, nothing we can do to sweep away the frightening memories that still linger in the children who survived, except to continue to work until they finally go away.

But what you have done is to show our children that in the wake of evil, goodness can surround them and lift them up. You have done a lot here already to prove that their lives are strong and powerful, like the tree behind me, which has now become famous around the country. Everybody wants to know why this tree stood up when the bomb went off. It lost its leaves and its bark, and it's still kind of ugly—[laughter]—but it survived, and it's going to bloom again. Why is it going to bloom again? Because its roots kept it strong and standing.

The survivors and the spirit of this community are blooming again because your roots kept you strong and standing. Now we see it in this child care center that we are here

to dedicate today. It's a testament, really, to the resilience of the human spirit and the fierce devotion of the parents of this community and the larger community, what Hillary likes to call "the village of citizens," who are determined to support your children and their future. When something really terrible happens, it's easy to forget how important basic things are. It's pretty important for children to have a safe place to fingerprint or plead with the teacher to read a book for the fifth time, or just play in a secure and safe environment.

These places, like the one you are preparing here for your children, are places where our kids begin to learn how to relate to other children, and they have to learn to live out the essential values that have stood our American family so well for so long. They really have to learn how to build instead of tear down, to work together instead of run away, how to treat other people who are just like them with respect and fairness. By rebuilding a place for children to learn these lessons and to play and to laugh again, all of you, as citizens, have done the most honorable thing a nation could ask for, and I want to thank you for that.

I also want to thank those of you who have already mentioned in public and in private the tragedy our Nation has endured this week with the loss of our Commerce Secretary and my dear friend, Ron Brown, and many other people, many of them quite young, who served our Nation in the Commerce Department and the United States military and the business executives who were on that trip.

They lost their lives pursuing the very spirit that we are here to celebrate today. They went to the Balkans, a region that has literally been torn apart by war, where hundreds of thousands of people have been stripped of their dignity and lives, and where millions have been turned into refugees and where countless children have been robbed of their future. And they did it just to prove that through faith and commitment, the people of Bosnia could get over their hatred and intolerance and that America wanted to help.

Ron Brown laughed with me last Monday night when we talked about this mission in detail, that I had sent him all over the world

with business leaders, primarily to expand the reach of the American economy, to generate more jobs for Americans. But he was going to Bosnia to use the power of the American economy, with the business leaders who were there, just to try to help the peace take hold, to give normal life back to those people. That is a noble and good thing for which they lived and died, and I ask you for your prayers for them and their families who, in these difficult days, are having their problems understanding the whys of all of this.

So as we remember those who perished here almost a year ago and we mourn those who died on that hard mountain so many thousands of miles from here, let us again thank God for the grace that has brought us to this point and enabled us to live with our sorrows and tragedies and to rebuild our lives.

You know, the bagpipers over there were playing "Amazing Grace." I suppose it's the best-known American hymn, at least the first verse. But as we remember those people in this community who are still grieving and still struggling, and we think of all of the difficulties life presents for which we have no answer, I would like to close with a reference to the third verse of that magnificent hymn: "Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." We pray God's grace today on those who lost so much a year ago and on the efforts of those of you who are working hard to build a better future, to make something profoundly good come out of that tragedy.

I'd like now to ask the children who are here and all of the others in the podium who would like to, to come up here and help me unveil the plaque. I don't have great manual skills. I need all of the help I can get up here. Could you all come up—the families, and Governor, Mayor. You all come on over. Let's do this together.

God bless you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:36 p.m. at the New YMCA Day Care Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Frank Keating; Mayor Ron Norick of Oklahoma City; and Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma.

## **Remarks to the Families of the Victims of the 1995 Bombing in Oklahoma City**

*April 5, 1996*

Thank you very much. Thank you so much, Reverend Alexander. Governor Keating, Mrs. Keating, Mr. Mayor, Senator Nickles, Lieutenant Governor Fallin, Congressman Brewster, Congressman Istook; most of all to the families here of those who lost their lives and those who survived the bombing almost a year ago.

I come here today as much as anything else to thank you. On this very difficult and painful day for me, when I have lost a great and good friend and a lot of gifted employees of the Federal Government, some of them very young, and some wonderful members of our Armed Forces and some of our Nation's most able business leaders, the power of your example is very much with me, and I thank you for that.

A year ago we were here to join in mourning your loss and praying for your healing. Today I ask that we not only remember your loss but celebrate the rebuilding you have already done and the work you will still do.

I have relived the moments of last year many times in my mind since I was here with you. I have wondered how you were doing and prayed for your strength. I was honored to have two of your citizens at the State of the Union Address and to recognize their unique contributions to our country through their service to you.

Just a few moments ago I was honored to lay a wreath, along with the First Lady and some children who survived and their parents, and then to dedicate the child care center that will be built near the site of the bombing, thanks to the remarkable efforts of your public officials and private citizens together. You have shown how strong you are, and you have given us all an example of the power of faith and community, the power of both God's grace and human courage.

On this Good Friday, what you have done has demonstrated to a watching and often weary and cynical world that good can overcome evil, that love can outlast hate, that the light of human life can shine on through the most terrible darkness. And so I thank you

for that. And I know that you could not have done it without your faith.

On this Friday I can't help noting that there is a wonderful verse in the Book of Matthew which says that a person who follows the word of God will be likened unto a wise man who built his house on a rock. And the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon the house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. Well your building was blown down, and many lives were shattered. But today, I saw again that the spirit of Oklahoma City fell not, for it is founded upon a rock. And I thank you for showing that to America.

From the early rescue efforts that so many engaged in to the scholarship funds for the children who lost their parents, to the current outpouring of support that will enable families to travel to Denver for the trial, to the dedication ceremony I just attended, I see over and over and over again that you have redeemed the promise of essential human nature and human possibility that we celebrate so profoundly in this season. And what I want to know is that, in doing that, you have renewed the faith of America. You have drawn our national family closer together.

A year ago I was able to come here and say to you that you have lost too much, but you have not lost everything. You have not lost America. In the year since, America has stood with you and prayed with you and worked with you as you rebuild. But today, I come to you to say you have given America something precious, a greater sense of our shared humanity, our common values, our obligations to one another. You've take some of the meanness out of our national life and put a little more love and respect into it, in ways that you probably cannot even imagine. And I thank you for that.

I will call on all Americans to express their solidarity with you when you celebrate the first anniversary of your tragedy. Earlier today I signed a proclamation calling for a moment of silence across our land on April the 19th at 9:02 a.m., Central Daylight Time, to ask the American people to gather in silent prayer and quiet reflection with their friends and neighbors, wherever they live, from Maine to Alaska, to southern California, to Florida.

And let me say to all of you again, we will be there with you. But because of what you have felt and what you have endured, let me ask you now if you will bow your heads in silent prayer to remember all that this year has meant to you and to pray for those who lost their loved ones on that plane in Bosnia. Only you can know how they feel.

May we pray.

*[At this point, a moment of silence was observed.]*

Amen.

I would like to say a special word now to some of the people who were involved here a year ago: To the Federal workers who survived the blast and are back on the job, we're glad, and we support you. To those who are not yet back on the job, we will stand with you until the day you are able to work again. To those who lost their lives in the service of their country, trying to help America get through every day in the best possible way, we thank you, your families, beyond measure.

Before Hillary and I left the White House this morning, we planted a new dogwood tree on the South Lawn to honor the memory of those who died in the crash in Bosnia. It is very near the one we planted a year ago, before we came to be with you for the first time, in honor of the loved ones that you lost. A year ago I noted that the dogwood tree embodies the lesson of the Psalms, that the life of a good person is like a tree whose leaf does not wither; that just as a tree takes a long time to grow, sometimes wounds take a long time to heal. Well, your tree has taken root on the South Lawn of the White House. In a few weeks it will flower. The healing power of our faith has also taken root and must bloom again here.

You know, this Easter Sunday all over the world the over 1.5 billion people who are Christians will be able to bear witness to our faith that the miracles of Jesus and the miracles of the human spirit in Oklahoma City only reflect the larger miracle of human nature that there is something eternal within each of us, that we all have to die and that no bomb can blow away even from the littlest child that eternity which is within each of us.

I know a lot of you are still hurting, but I hope as Sunday comes you'll be able to find some comfort in that. Your healing has to go on. A lot of you probably still have your doubts about all of this. I'm sure there's some lingering anger and even some rage and dark and lonely nights for many of the family members. I can only say to you that the older I get the more I know that we have to try harder to make the most of each day and accept the fact that things will happen we can never understand or justify.

We flew over my home State, you know, coming here, and it made me think of the words of an old Gospel song that were actually written in Arkansas. And I thought I would leave you with these words, and our love and respect, as we move toward Easter.

The hymn goes: "Further along we'll know all about it. Further along we'll understand why. Rise up, my brothers, and walk in the sunshine. Further along we'll understand why."

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Myriad Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Don Alexander, pastor, First Christian Church; and Cathy Keating, wife of Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma.

### **Proclamation 6880—National Day of Remembrance of the Oklahoma City Bombing**

*April 5, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

On the morning of April 19, 1995, America was devastated by news of an explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. As rescuers rushed to the scene, citizens across the country waited by their televisions and radios for information, and we prayed for the children, Federal workers, and many others caught by the bomb's deadly blast. Despite heroic efforts of emergency personnel and countless Samaritans, 168 people lost their lives as a result of the brutal attack.

For a year we have mourned the dead, aided the residents of Oklahoma City in their struggle to rebuild, and strengthened our resolve to fight terrorism. And though it has been a sad and challenging time, the outpouring of love and support for those affected by the tragedy has helped our Nation to come together in common purpose. As we mark the first anniversary of the bombing, we remember the victims and honor their memory with a moment of silence. In prayer and quiet reflection, let us move forward together to foster peace in our land.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 19, 1996, as a National Day of Remembrance of the Oklahoma City Bombing. I ask all the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence on that day at 9:02 a.m., Central Daylight Time, gathering with family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues at home, at work, and in places of worship to commemorate this solemn occasion.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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**March 30**

In the evening, the President attended the Gridiron Dinner at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

**March 31**

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with members of the University of Tennessee women's basketball team to congratulate them on winning the NCAA national championship.

**April 1**

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with members of the University of Kentucky men's basketball team to congratulate them on winning the NCAA national championship.

**April 2**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, where he threw out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles-Kansas City Royals baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In the late afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by the "Blizzard of 1996" on January 6-12.

The President announced his intention to nominate Leslie M. Alexander as Ambassador to Ecuador and Prudence Bushnell as Ambassador to Kenya.

The President announced the nomination of James E. Hall as Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board.

**April 3**

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton visited with the family of Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, who was killed that morning in the aircraft tragedy near Dubrovnik, Croatia.

**April 4**

The President announced his intention to nominate Hubert T. Bell, Jr., as Inspector General of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**April 5**

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where they laid a wreath at the former site

of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which was destroyed in a terrorist bombing in April 1995.

In the afternoon, the President addressed the community at the University of Central Oklahoma.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

**Released April 2**

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the Presidential elections in Benin

**Released April 3**

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the victory of President El Haji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in the election in Sierra Leone

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake to the U.S.-Russia Business Council

**Released April 4**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

**Released April 5**

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on U.S. participation in Expo '98

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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***Approved April 1***

H.R. 1266 / Public Law 104-123  
Greens Creek Land Exchange Act of 1995

H.R. 1787 / Public Law 104-124  
To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement

H.J. Res. 78 / Public Law 104-125  
To grant the consent of the Congress to certain additional powers conferred upon the Bi-State Development Agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois

S.J. Res. 38 / Public Law 104-126  
Granting the consent of Congress to the Vermont-New Hampshire Interstate Public Water Supply Compact

***Approved April 4***

H.R. 2854 / Public Law 104-127  
Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996